

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended or added, leaving Claims 1-3 and 6-8 for consideration. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,176 to Okuyama et al.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,176 to Okuyama et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,601 to Friend et al.


Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,556,176 to Okuyama et al. with the instant response. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the case be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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